

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 151332 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6411

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 1207

E. O. 11652 XGDS

TAGS: MU PFOR PGOV

SUBJECT: OMAN- USG CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

REF: KUWAIT 0898

1. SUMMARY. OMANI FONMIN SAYYID FAHAD TOLD ME APRIL 7 OF DISCUSSIONSWITH OMAN GOVT OF CHANNELS COMMUNICATIONS TO USG. SECRETARY ROGERS HAD TOLD HIM IN NY THAT US EMBASSY IN OMAN WAS SOLE OFFICIAL CHANNEL BUT OTHERS HAD CLAIMED SPECIAL CONNECTIONS AND INFLUENCE WITH USG. I URGED HIM MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ONLY OUR EMBASSIES MUSCAT AND WASHINGTON COULD BE REGARDED RESPONSIVLE CHANNELS. COMMENT: THIS PRESUMABLY STEMS FROM EMIR SULTAN' S RECENT VISIT AND TENDENCY SULTAN QABOOS RELY MORE ON SAUDI BUSINESSMAN GHASSAN SHAKIR THAN HIS OWN FONMIN
END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF GENERALDISCUSSIONS OMAN FOREIGN RELATIONS APRIL 7 FOREIGN MINISTER SAYYID FAHAD AL BU SAID SUDDENLY ADOPED CONFIDENTIAL TONE AND SAID THEREHAD BEEN RECENT DISCUSSION OF HOW TO APPROACH US GOVT. THERE WERE VISITORS HE SAID WHO CLAIM THEY HAVE AMERICAN FRIENDS AND CLOSER CONNECTIONS
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IN USGOVT THAN EVEN AMERICAN EMBASSY. I REPLIED THAT THE ONLY RESPONSIBLE AND RELIABLE GOVERNMENT- TO- GOVERNMENT CHANNELS WERE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN MUSCAT AND THE OMAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. I WAS PLEASED HE HAD BROUGHT UP QUESTION BECAUSE I WAS AWARE HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QUABOOS HAD DISCUSSED OMAN- US RELATIONS WITH VISITORS IN THE PAST AND I WANTED TO BE SURE US POLICY WAS CORRECTLY PRESENTED.

3. SAYYID FAHAD RESPONDED THAT SECRETARY ROGERS HAD EMPHASIZED IN THEIR TALK LAST FALL IN NEW YORK THAT THE US EMBASSY WAS THE SOLE OFFICIAL CHANNEL: SAYYID FAHAD HAD THEREAFTER TOLD THE SULTAN ABOUT THAT AND HE WOULD NOW TELL HIS MAJESTY AGAIN. THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED TO SPEAK FOR THE US GOVT OR TO HAVE SPECIAL MEANS OF GETTING THINGS DONE BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS THE CASE. OVER A YEAR AGO THE AMERICAN CONSUL GENERAL FROM DHAHRAN HAD EMPHASIZED THAT ONLY THE CONSULATE GENERAL AND THE EMBASSY TO BE OPENED IN THE FUTURE, REPRESENTED US POLICY TOWARD OMAN.

4. I RELED THAT THE MINISTER AND HIS MAJESTY WOULD NATURALLY WISH TO DISCUSS AMERICAN POLICY WITH THEIR FRIENDS, ALLIES AND FOREIGN ADVISORS, AND ALTHOUGH I DID NOT INTEND TO DISPARAGE ADVICE OR COMMENTS FROM SUCH DISTINGUISHED PERSONS AS GENERAL KHAMMASH OR ORDAN OR EMIR SULTAN OF SAUDI ARABI, (OR, FOR THAT MATTER THE SULTAN'S HIGHLY RESPECTED AMERICAN OIL ADVISER) NO PRIVATE AMERICAN OR NATIONAL OF ANOTHER COUNTRY HAD ANY US GOVT MANDATE OR MISSION OR INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING OMAN - US RELATIONS EXCEPT AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS AND HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN MUSCAT. THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE SULTAN COULD NOT OR SHOULD NOT ACCEPT ADVICE FROM ANY QUARTER. I MEANT RATHER THAT THE US GOVT COULD TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY SUCH ADVICE OR RESULTING ARRANGEMENT. I HAD IN FACT PLANNED TO SUGGEST TO AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS THAT HE MAKE THIS CLEAR TO THE SULTAN ON HIS NEXT CALL. I ADDED THAT IF HIS MAJESTY WISHED TO SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH A THIRD PARTY SUCH AS GENERAL KHAMMASH IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO ALL PARTIES IF OUR EMBASSY WERE INFORMED

5. SAYYID FAYYID FAHAD, OBVIOUSLY PLEASED, SAID HE WOULD TAKE SUBJECT WITH HIS MAJESTY ONCE AGAIN.

6. COMMENT. I BELIEVE SAYYID FAHAD WANTED TO CLEAR UP QUESTION RAISED DURING EMIR SULTANS MEETING(REFTTEL) WITH SECRET

SECRET

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QUABOOS MARCH 30 AT LEAST ONE OF " ADVISERS" IN SAUDI BUSINESS

MAN GHASSAN SHAKIR WHO BEARS TITLE " FOREIGN AFFAIRS ADVISER
TO THE SULTAN" AND WHO ACCOMPANIED SULTAN TO CAIRO AND LIBYA
WHILE FAHAD WAS SENT OFF TO SECONDARY MEETINGS ELSEWHERE
DEPARTMENT MAY WISH DISCUSS MATTER OF OFFICIAL
CHANNELS WITH OMAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON BUT, SINCE AT LEAST
PART OF QUESTION IS FAHAD' S IMPLICIT OBJECTION TO BEING BY PASSED
SUGGEST HIS NAME NOT BE CITED. STOLTZFUS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KUWAIT01207
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1 STOLTZFUS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730444/aaaaippx.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KUWAIT 898
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980121
Subject: OMAN- USG CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, MU
To: NEA
STATE INFO ABU DHABI
AMMAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005